

The Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana | December 2015

#### **Family...The Greatest Gift of All**

The Ronald McDonald House is a place where families can find hope, support and vital resources when their child is in the hospital. It is a place that gives families the strength they need to help their child fight illness or injury. It is a place where the notion of family gets a little bigger, and love, care and compassion reign.

For the Corbin family of Chalmers, IN, the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana has been their refuge and home-away-from-home since 18-year-old Wesley was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in August 2012.



The Corbin family from left: Ethan, Nathaniel, Heather, Chris, Robyn and Wesley.

Since then, Wesley and his family have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House a total of 34 weeks while he's battled his illness and experienced several ups and downs. Throughout this time, he's enrolled in clinical trials, has gone through several rounds of chemotherapy treatment and has even received two bone marrow transplants—the first from his younger brother, Ethan, two years ago, and the most recent from his sister, Robyn, this past September.

"It's been a tough road," says Heather, Wesley's mother. "But one of the blessings in this journey is that all three of Wesley's siblings are perfect matches. We've said all along that 'God is bigger' and this is one way He has shown us."

Heather and her husband, Chris, say another blessing to their family has been the Ronald McDonald House. "The Ronald McDonald House has helped us in so many ways. It's given us a home base where we can be together as a family and stay connected," says Heather. "There's a profound specialness in being able to have a family dinner together and family time at night. I don't sleep well in the hospital so being able to relax at the House and get some sleep helped us all stay strong emotionally and physically."

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On October 23, after 60 consecutive days of being in the hospital and staying at the Ronald McDonald House, Wesley and Heather were more than excited to make the road trip home. Today, Wesley is cancer-free and the Corbin family is "rejoicing." Heather's journal entry on the day they arrived home says it all: "Wes is HOME! He was gone for 60 days ...now reunited with the family! Pretty sure I felt like we floated home!"



Wesley and his mom, Heather, on their way home after Wesley's last hospital stay.

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It's been an exciting and busy December at the Ronald McDonald House! Our House is beautifully decorated for the holidays thanks to an army of wonderful volunteers, our families are enjoying special holiday meals and activities and we celebrated Giving Tuesday at our annual Home for the Holidays open house on Dec. 1.

When we started our Giving Tuesday planning, we set out with a goal of raising \$10,000 but thanks to over 200 generous donors we significantly surpassed our goal and raised over \$40,000 - that's over 450 nights of keeping families together when they need each other most. We are humbled and grateful for this incredible outpouring of support and generosity. I would like to give a special thanks to our Giving Tuesday matching partners — Centerpoint Wealth Management, Mary Frances Rubly, the James family, the Gordon family and our anonymous donor.

As I move into my second year at the House, I am continually inspired by the community support we receive and the lives we are able to touch every day. Thank you for being a part of everything we do. Wishing you many wonderful moments with family and friends this holiday season.

With gratitude,

solvin Michelle Study-Campbell





#### **Home for the Holidays!**

We had a blast celebrating Giving Tuesday and kicking off the holiday season at our "Home for the Holidays" Open House on Dec. 1! Thank you to everyone who stopped by and a special thanks to the following individuals and groups who helped make the day merry and bright for our families and guests:

- Entertainment by Bryce Nelson and Kelleen Strutz
- Hors d'oeuvres by Olive Branch Christian Church
- Exterior holiday decorations by Engledow Group
- Live remote broadcast by Hot 96.3 FM and Radio Now 100.9

Meet our Giving Tuesday Superhero: Catherine Stiver!
Thank you to board member Catherine Stiver, who supports the House in memory of her daughter, Caitlin. This Giving Tuesday, Catherine's friends and family raised nearly \$10,000 for the House in Caitlin's memory. Thanks to their generosity, many families will rest their weary heads and find refuge in the room funded by "The Friends and Family of Caitlin Cynthia Stiver."



The Stiver Family

#### **Thank You Community Partners**



Thank you Nextech for bringing the Hour of Code to our families Education



Thanks to the Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance team for making some delicious holiday-themed breakfast treats for our families.

We are so grateful to Bethel Baptist Church in Greenfield for recently delivering over 50 backpacks filled with blankets. books and activities for our





### A Taste ... Journeys to the Wine Regions of Italy

Presented by NextGear Capital

Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana



We are so grateful to the more than 450 friends and supporters who attended our "Taste...Journeys to the Wine Regions of Italy" gala held on the evening of November 6 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. Grazie to Jennifer Dzwonar, chair of the planning committee, Jill Ditmire honorary chair, and the entire planning committee for creating an inspired journey of all the senses, and most importantly, the heart.



Grazie to our wonderful vocalists. Kelleen Strutz and Eric Wickens.





Grazie Taste Event Partners!























Grazie to our Emcee, CBS4 Morning Anchor, Marianne Lyles, and special quests Lexi and Rexanne Fuchs.



Grazie to Post Road English Garden and Impact Group for the beautiful décor.

#### Scholarship Program Open to Graduating High School Seniors

McDonald's® of Central Indiana is accepting applications for its annual Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC) scholarship programs! Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors to cover college expenses. Students will have the opportunity to apply for one of four scholarships. RMHC's scholarship programs include: RMHC/African-American Future Achievers, RMHC/Asia, RMHC/HACER® and RMHC/Scholars. The deadline for applications is January 20.

For more information about RMHC's scholarship programs, please visit RMHC.org.

#### **Thank You to Our New Room Sponsors**

We'd like to welcome our newest room sponsors. Your gift helps keep families together when they need each other most!

Cornelius Family Foundation Robert & Toni Bader Family Foundation Haddad Foundation Mark & Debbie James Larry & Debbie Hendren and Mike Martin VMS BioMarketing

For information on sponsoring a room, contact Peg Strodtbeck at pstrodtbeck@rmhindiana.org or at (317) 267-0605, ext. 228.



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Save the Date:

## STATE OF THE HOUSE

March 16, 2016, 7:30 a.m.

Ronald McDonald House of Indiana



That means your gift has double the impact!



# Monumental Music Jam to Benefit the Ronald McDonald House!

On February 25, 2016 the AAA Insurance Monumental Music Jam will return to Bankers Life Fieldhouse for the third consecutive year. This year's show features country hit maker, Billy Currington with rising star Kelsea Ballerini.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com, and \$1 of every ticket sold will benefit our House!